



Tips on Coming Events  
and Developments in AAA

1. Conservation Notes--Background material and suggestions for local releases on AAA soil-building practices are being prepared in the Division of Information for distribution to the states. Four of the conservation notes--dealing with seedings of legumes and grasses, application of lime and phosphate, green manure and cover crops, and tree planting--have already been mailed. The purpose of these notes is to furnish information on the extent to which practices are used, what they do for the soil, and to give specific suggestions which may be useful in preparing local releases on soil-building practices in your state. These practices vary so widely from state to state that general releases on them must be re-written more often than not to make applicable in the states. Consequently, it was thought that the type of information in the conservation notes would be convenient for preparing local releases on practices that apply to your state. Additional notes on important practices will be mailed very shortly. We would like suggestions on how this material may be improved or better adapted to state use.
2. Crop Insurance--Since adjustment of early losses may soon begin in the winter wheat area, local releases on this activity will be available in the states. The Crop Insurance Information Section suggests a brief feature with a picture on a representative adjustment in the state. The picture could show the farmer and the adjuster examining the damaged field, or it might show a farmer planting sorghums or summer fallowing a field where his wheat failed, pointing out that insured income from his wheat helped him finance good use of the land. Such a picture could have a variety of angles since farmers have used their indemnities to buy livestock and poultry, terrace fields, repair dwellings, etc. Another picture which could be taken in the spring wheat area is the planting of an insured crop as soon as the planting season starts. This picture might show a representative farmer preparing his land for planting, or actually planting his crop under good conditions. An idea to work into such a picture: The farmer has high hopes for a good crop, but just the same he is glad of the additional protection from his insurance.
3. Farm Plan Sign-up--Weekly stories have been sent to most states on the Farm Plan sign-up, but further releases may be needed locally before the deadline dates arrive.
4. Wheat Loan Liquidation--Loans on 1939 wheat fall due April 30, and releases could be prepared, calling attention to this date and describing the steps necessary in making settlement. In areas where loans on farm stored wheat may be extended, a release could point out the steps necessary in extending a loan and the conditions of the extension. An effective fill-in release could be written for distribution in the counties, after loans are all liquidated or extended, to show how much more farmers of the county realized from their 1939 wheat crop by being able to take out loans on it last fall and selling it later when the market price was higher. The difference in the local loan rate and the prices which farmers actually realized on their wheat will no doubt make a fair-sized total in most wheat counties. In most cases, if not all, counties will







have this information. Although there will probably be a considerable lag between the time this information is available in the county and on a state basis, a state release could be written on the same subject.

5. Lime and Phosphate Feature--Feature stories should be available in the East Central Region on lime and phosphate practices (and other areas where applicable). Such stories, in addition to the totals of lime and phosphate already ordered by farmers, could point out the value of these materials through the personal experience of farmers. There may be an opportunity to submit releases of this kind to farm journals and to farm sections of papers which circulate rather widely in your area. Pictures can illustrate good legume and grass growths brought about by application of lime or phosphate, or both, and action shots of farmers applying these materials.
6. Farm Operations Story--A possible county feature story which could be prepared very soon would be one highlighting the start of spring work on the farm, the organization of farm work for the year, the beginning of soil-building practices and other activities on the farms. The feature could point out how farmers are planning their 1940 operations to comply with the AAA Farm Program, how their plans fit in with good farming practices, and how the smaller opportunity for raising cash crops is more than offset by the advantages that come from conservation farming. Where the AAA Farm Plan or Farm Plan Sheet is used in 1940 sign-up work, it could be tied in with this release.
7. Winter Legumes and Cover Crops--Stories on winter legumes and other winter cover crops will be readily available in Southern states during April as these crops will have attained full growth by then and farmers will be turning them under as green manure, cutting them for hay, etc. (AAA pictograph mats on green manure and cover practices will fit in with such stories, if the mats have not already been used).
8. Re-inspection of Stored Corn--In the commercial corn area re-inspection of corn stored on farms and in government-owned steel bins will be made in April. As soon as information is available as to the condition of the corn, local press and radio material can be released.
9. Wheat Parity Payments--Press and radio releases announcing payment of 1940 winter wheat parity payments can be written in April.
10. Deferred Grazing--Dates for deferred grazing will be a news peg for stories on the range program.
11. Briefly Speaking--The next issue of Briefly Speaking, national AAA house organ for committeemen, will come out about April 1 or shortly after. The theme of this issue is farm-business relationships and will have some valuable material about the interdependence of the farm and business, as to income, sales volume, etc. This issue employs greater use of illustrative material and has some interesting as well as informative pictorial statistics. If you are not already familiar with this AAA publication, we suggest that you scan the next issue. The last issue, which came out about two months ago, has some good material on agriculture and foreign trade.





## Suggestions for Radio Programs in the States

1. See News Tips in Calendar--Radio should be part of a regular information program, should supplement news coverage of important developments and interest listeners so that they will want to procure detailed information about the subject covered. Generally, anything that makes a good news release is suitable for radio material if it can be made simple.
2. Broadcast Suggestions--It's a good idea to document the philosophy of the program and program developments with farmer experience. It is more effective to ask farmers to discuss something definite, such as their soil-building work, than to merely have farmers talking. Here are some suggestions--not new but appropriate--for farmer broadcasts:
  - a. Crop Insurance--In a wheat state a farmer could tell what it means to his family to receive a wheat crop insurance indemnity; also, how the certainty of a crop enables him to take better care of the soil.
  - b. Farm Plan Sign-Up--A farmer could discuss the value of the Farm Plan as a part of his yearly operations, as an aid to better farming, and possibly the savings that result from having the whole farming picture before him. Also, he might discuss just exactly what his part in the Farm Program will be during the year.
  - c. Wheat Loan Liquidation--What it has meant to the farmer to be able to hold his wheat off a low market and sell on a higher market; in areas where the loan may be extended, how a farmer goes about getting a loan extension could be explained.
  - d. As an alternative or sequel to "c", a business man could take part in a broadcast with a farmer--the farmer pointing out his personal experience with the wheat loan and how he profited, and the business man pointing out both the personal and community advantages resulting from the wheat loan.
  - e. Application of Lime and Phosphate--A farmer could give an account of outstanding results from applying these materials, and discuss lime and phosphate as a basis for a real soil-building program on the farm. A farmer with prize-winning pigs or heavy-producing cows may attribute results to the use of lime and phosphate.
  - f. Home Gardens--In a broadcast to show that home gardens are a valuable part of farming operations in the South, a farmer or farm woman, or both, might relate a personal experience with a garden through canning time and the winter months, showing how much income and good food the garden provided.





3. Farm and Home Series--The national AAA radio series, "Today's Soil for Today and Tomorrow," will be completed with five broadcasts in April. A broadcast not previously scheduled will be aired April 23 when three persons from Stutsman County, North Dakota--a farmer, a farm woman and a business man--tell how crop insurance has served farmers in the Northern Great Plains. Other broadcasts will include: April 2, Perry County, Alabama, committeemen "Terracing"; April 9, Garza County, Texas, committeemen, "Water Conservation on the Range"; April 16, Coos County, New Hampshire, committeemen--"Woodland Management." The series will end April 30 with an address by Secretary Wallace on "Conservation--Today and Tomorrow."

#### Suggestions for Mats and Pictures

1. Crop Insurance News Shots--Sugresstions for pictures on loss adjustment and planting of an insured crop have been outlined in the first section of the Calendar.
2. Lime and Phosphate--In areas where lime and phosphate are being applied, pictures should be available showing the spreading of limestone and phosphate on farms; also operation of terracing outfits, and plowing under green manure crops, and other conservation practices.
3. Corn Storage--In the North Central States corn stored on the farm and in the steel bins will be re-inspected in April, which will give an opportunity for pictures pointing out that such corn is in good condition. Pictures of sealers re-inspecting the corn (with the legend explaining the condition of the corn) can be taken in counties where corn is stored on the farm and in the steel bins.
4. Winter Legumes--April is a good month to get pictures of winter legumes and winter cover crops in Southern states since by then they have usually obtained full growth and farmers are beginning to turn them under as green manure, cutting them for hay, etc.
5. Tree Planting Pictures--In some areas April will be a heavy month for tree planting, and in others stands of trees will have been already set out. This will be a good time for getting pictures of tree planting operations.
6. Soil-Building Practices and Farm Operations Pictures--In most areas soil-building practices and farm operations will be in full swing during April; this should afford a splendid opportunity to get pictures of a wide variety for use in informational materials of all kinds.







Information on Developments  
in the Commodity Programs

**Wheat:**

Loans on 1939 wheat will mature April 30, and liquidation of all wheat loans will be in progress during the month. Borrowers in states where farm-stored 1939 wheat may be resealed must indicate their intentions to liquidate their loans or reseat their wheat by April 30. These states include Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, 22 counties in Oklahoma and 27 counties in Texas. (See section of "tips on Coming Events and Developments in AAA.")

No extension will be made on loans covering 1938 wheat, and a summary of 1938 wheat loan repayments will be available in areas where the 1938 loans on farm-stored wheat had been extended to March 31, 1940.

Instructions for making parity payments are now in the field, and farmers in the winter wheat area will be signing applications for 1940 winter wheat parity payments. Farmers will also be receiving parity payments during April. (See "Tips on Coming Events and Developments.")

County and community committees will be determining 1941 wheat allotments and establishing normal yields. 1941 county wheat allotments will go out to counties about May 15. It is expected that farm allotments will be ready about June 1.

In the North Central Region June 1 has been set as the deadline for requests for new farm wheat allotments for 1941. (Check state offices for this date in other regions.)

**Corn:**

Re-inspection of corn stored on farms and in government-owned steel bins will begin late in March. Most of the work will be completed in April.

**Cotton:**

The work of establishing normal cotton yields in county offices will continue during the month.

Cotton planting will be at a peak in most of the cotton area.







## Crop Insurance:

Crop insurance loss adjustment work for 1940 will begin.

States will be making seeded acreage reports.

County and community committees will be determining 1941 wheat yields and rates.

## Sugars:

The time is approaching when most sugar beet growers will be hiring labor for work in the beet fields. Local press and radio releases can remind growers who wish to receive payments under the Sugar Act of 1937 that they may not hire, nor permit to work, children under the age of 14, and that the working day of children between 14 and 16 is limited to 8 hours. Members of the immediate family of a person who is a legal owner of not less than 40 percent of the crop at the time the work is performed are exempt from this ruling.

The wages to be paid to beet field labor in the production, cultivation, or harvesting of the 1940 crop, by growers, (except those in California) who wish to receive sugar payments will be announced shortly. Wages for laborers in California were announced January 18.

Soil-conserving practices, or farming requirement practices, under the 1940 program are virtually the same as those for 1939. They include the seeding or maintenance of adapted legumes or grasses, the plowing under of adapted green manure crops, and the application of animal or chemical fertilizers. State offices will have complete information on these practices as they apply to your state.

## Soil-Building Practices:

East Central Region: Practices which may be carried out during April include terracing, sowing seedlings of legumes and grasses, application of lime and phosphate, and turning under green manure crops.

Northeast Region: Farmers may top-dress pastures, plant trees, and apply lime to crop land.

North Central Region: Farmers can seed legumes and grasses and apply lime and fertilizer. Use of triple-superphosphate under the grant-aid program will reach a peak during April. Alfalfa seeding will also be at its peak during April, and early May.

Diacing and other pasture improvement practices will begin in April, as will establishment of sod waterways, construction of dams in gullies and other erosion control structures. Contour lines will be laid out. Tree planting will probably be finished, and stands of trees will be improved in the northern states.







Soil-Building  
Practices - Cont:

Southern Region: Practices which can be carried out during April--turning under winter legumes and other cover crops, establishing and improving pastures, planting home gardens if not already done, applying lime and phosphate.

Western Region: Among the practices which farmers in the Western Region may carry out during April are: seeding legumes, application of lime and phosphate, deferred grazing, strip-cropping, trees planting, construction of dams and reservoirs and other water conservation practices. Dates for deferred grazing periods will be available in state offices. A complete check-up of soil-building practices for each state may be obtained from the state office.

Performance,  
Meetings,  
Speeches and  
Miscellaneous

East Central Region: A conference of extension agronomy specialists and state AAA representatives will be held in Washington during April. The purpose of the conference will be to outline a cover crop program for the East Central States.

Farmer-business men meetings will be held in most counties during the month. At some of these meetings the sound films, "Uncle Sam--Farmer," and "The River" will supplement other parts of the programs.

April 15 is the final date for signing the Farm Plan in the East Central Region. (See "Tips on Coming Events and Developments in AAA.")

North Carolina will begin the training of field operators and state supervisors for compliance work.

All holders of wheat loans will be notified by April 15 that April 30 is the final date for liquidation of their loans.

Northeast Region: In some states individual contacts with farmers will be completed in regard to the 1940 sign-up on allotment and non-allotment farms, and orders for materials under the grant-of-aid program.

Lime bids for all Northeast States will be opened during the month. These will cover contracts running through September 15 for lime to be used under the grant-of-aid program.

April 15 is the closing date for submitting the 1941 wheat yield listing sheets to the state offices in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

Administrator R. M. Evans will speak before a farmer-businessmen meeting in Uniontown, Pa., April 4.





North Central Region -- The sign-up of Farm Plans for the 1940 program will close in April, since May 1 is the deadline for this work. (See section of "Tips on Events and Coming Developments in AAA.")

May 1 is also the deadline for requests from farmers for combination of farms.

Loans on rye will mature April 30. Instructions as to the liquidation or extension of these loans have been announced.

Contracts for 1940 aerial photography are now in process, and flying will begin in some states during April. These will be re-flights and probably have little news value.

Southern Region -- Closing dates for filing applications for payment under the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program: March 31--Arkansas; April 1--Florida; April 30--Oklahoma and Georgia; May 31--Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas.

Closing dates for filing work sheets by farmers who did not receive allotments in 1939: March 31--Arkansas, Oklahoma and Georgia; April 15--Alabama and Mississippi; April 30--South Carolina; May 1--Texas and Louisiana.

Work will be continued on 1940 Farm Plan Sheets.

State training meetings for performance supervisors will begin in April.

Western Region -- April will be the last month for farmers to sign a Farm Plan, since May 1 is the deadline for this work. As mentioned in the first section of the Calendar, local stories on the Farm Plan sign-up will be important.

County offices will be cleaning up work on applications for 1939 Agricultural and Range Conservation payments. Training meetings on compliance work will be held. Farmers in Oregon will be able to obtain lime under the grant-of-aid program as that program has been extended to include Oregon. Bids have been opened and the material will be available immediately.

All Regions -- The national AAA conference, at which recommendations for the 1941 AAA Farm Program will be drawn up, is tentatively set for July 10, 11 and 12, in Washington, D. C. A tentative date, June 23, has been set for the national range conference, which will probably be held in Midland, Texas.

